

REMARKS

Claims 1-95, all the pending claims, are subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 30-34 and 69 have been amended to further clarify the claimed invention and to specify a level of homology. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application as filed including, for example, on pages 40, 50, 59 and 62.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 88-90 have been canceled without prejudice to presentation in future related applications.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner required Applicants to elect one of fourteen patentably distinct inventions for examination. The Office Action alleges that each of the inventions is distinct because, *inter alia*, each of the “molecules have completely different structures and biological functions which are not interchangeable and which require non-cohesive [sic] searches and considerations.” (Office Action at pages 3-4). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Office further requires the:

identification of an amino acid/nucleic acid sequence that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon ... The Examiner notes that this is not a species election requirement; rather it sets forth additional invention groups.

(Office Action at page 6).

Applicants provisionally elect herein Group II, encompassing claims 30-35 and 88-90, “drawn to an isolated polypeptide, classified in class 530, subclass 350”. Applicants further elect SEQ ID NO:268 (nGPCR-74).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no serious burden would be imposed upon the Examiner by combining several of the groups. For example, Applicants respectfully assert that searching both the nucleic acid and the isolated polypeptide would not represent an undue burden and would serve to reduce administrative inefficiencies, both on the part of the Office and of Applicants.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims encompassed by any of the non-elected groups in future divisional applications.

Change of Correspondence Address

As set forth on the attached "Change of Correspondence Address" form SB-122, Applicants respectfully request that all future correspondence related to this application be directed to:

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The examination of these claims and passage to allowance are respectfully requested. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (215) 665-6904 to clarify any unresolved issues raised by this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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